GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4915
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
WORKLOAD OF INDIAN MISSIONS IN GULF COUNTRIES
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work load of the Indian-Missions in Gulf countries has increased manifold;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen these Missions by providing sufficient staff and other facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to open an additional consulate in Damam in view of heavy work load in Indian Consulates in Riyadh and Jeddah; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a) Yes Sir, work load on our missions in the Gulf countries has increased over the years commensurate with increase in strength of the community working there, enhancement of bilateral trade, services and a greater measure of political contacts.

b&c) Staff strength in all our Missions abroad remains under constant review; it is evaluated professionally.

d&e) The Government of Saudi Arabia has not yet consented to the opening of our Consulate in Damam.However, our Mission in Riyadh sends consular teams, every week, to Damam to provide passport and other consular services to the Indian community in that area.